

REMARKS

Foreign Priority:

Applicant hereby requests the Examiner acknowledge Applicant's claim to foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d), and that copies of the priority document were received from the International Bureau under PCT Rule 17.2(a).

Information Disclosure Statement:

Applicant thanks the Examiner for initialing and returning the Forms PTO-1449 filed on June 13, 2000, May 7, 2001 and November 2, 2001, thus indicating that all of the references listed thereon have been considered.

Claim Objections:

Claims 4-7, 11-14 and 18-21 have been objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) as being in improper multiple dependent form.

Applicant has amended these claims, as shown in the previous section, to address the Examiner's concerns. Namely, each of claims 4-6, 11-13 and 18-20 have been written in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant hereby requests the Examiner withdraw the above objection to the claims.

Further, Applicant notes that the above referenced claim amendments have been made merely to place the claims in proper format, and are not intended to narrow the scope of spirit of the original claims, in any way. Specifically, each of the above amended claims have maintained their original claim scope, as they have been merely written in independent form.

As there is no prior art rejection of these claims, Applicant submits that these claims are now in allowable condition.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicant sincerely thanks the Examiner for indicating that although claims 2-3, 9-10 and 16-17 have been objected to, these claims would be allowable if written in independent form.

Applicant has written these above claims in independent form. Therefore, Applicant submits that these claims also contain allowable subject matter. Applicant has not altered or narrowed the original scope of these claims, but has merely placed these claims in independent form.

Claim Rejections:

Claims 1-21 are all the claims that have been examined in the application, and currently only claims 1, 8 and 15 stand rejected.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection - Claims 1 and 8:

Claims 1 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,418,899 to Aoki et al. In view of the following discussion, Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejection.

Aoki discloses a size magnification processing unit which uses a image input unit 10, an edge detecting unit 1, a smoothing unit 2, an interpolation unit 3 and a level converter 4. *See* Figure 3, and col. 5, lines 7-15. In Aoki, the interpolation unit 3 performs an interpolation process in which the image data of the pixels, which are arranged at sampling intervals depending on the magnification factor, is calculated based on the smoothed image supplied from the smoothing unit. However, there is no disclosure, within Aoki, of having the interpolation unit 3 performing an image sharpening process after smoothing an edge.

Specifically, in the present invention, the interpolating process sharpens the image to remove the jaggy of the image. *See* claims 1, 8 and 15. This is not disclosed or suggested in Aoki.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that Aoki fails to disclose or suggest each and every feature set forth in any of claims 1 and 8. As such, Applicant submits that Aoki fails to anticipate the present invention, set forth in these claims, as required under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Accordingly, Applicant hereby requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the above 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of these claims.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection - Claim 15:

Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the above Aoki reference. In view of the following discussion, Applicant respectfully disagrees.

For at least the same reasons set forth above, Applicant submits that Aoki fails to teach or suggest the present invention, as set forth in claim 15. Namely, Aoki fails to teach or suggest having the interpolation unit 3 performing an image sharpening process after smoothing an edge of an image. In Aoki, the interpolation unit 3 performs an interpolation process in which the image data of the pixels, which are arranged at sampling intervals depending on the magnification factor, is calculated based on the smoothed image supplied from the smoothing unit. There is no disclosure or suggestion of sharpening an image, as set forth in the present invention.

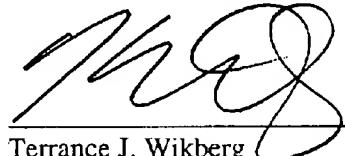
Accordingly, Applicant also hereby requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the above 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claim 15.

Conclusion:

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Terrance J. Wikberg
Registration No. 47,177

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE
23373
CUSTOMER NUMBER

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